PRESIDENT'S REPORT

November 11, 2026



FROM THE PRESIDENT

November is a time to give thanks, and I couldn't be more grateful to our students, faculty, staff, community partners, and you, the Board of Trustees, for all we have accomplished throughout the fall semester at Central Piedmont.



I am proud of the opportunities we continue to provide for students, including the introduction of a new Radiography program, a strengthened transfer process with UNC Charlotte and a series of Transfer Week events that help individuals take the next step in their educational journey. At the same time, it is inspiring that so many in our community see Central Piedmont as a place where they can transform their lives. At our open house event in September, we welcomed nearly 1,500 guests, and in October, 550 eighth graders from across Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools visited our campuses to learn how Central Piedmont can shape their future.

Additionally, our strong partnerships continue to illustrate Central Piedmont's impact on the region and beyond.

The college is a founding member of the Lowe's Building Futures Skilled Trades Coalition, collaborating with employers, educators and industry leaders to develop skilled trades professionals. Central Piedmont also recently received a $15,000 Metallica Scholars Initiative grant to support healthcare students, continuing a longstanding relationship. In late September, local Chick-fil-A restaurants donated a portion of their mobile orders to help create the Chick-fil-A Charlotte Scholarship Fund. Plus, a new partnership with the USGA prepares the next generation of golf course maintenance professionals. We are thankful for each of these partnerships, which open doors and create opportunities for students to achieve their dreams.

We are also thankful for the family of the late alumna Mary Jolly, who has been instrumental in creating an endowed scholarship bearing her name that will remove financial barriers for future EMTs and paramedics.

It's a privilege to work alongside our faculty and staff, who each semester commit to continuous improvement during Professional Development Day. They have embraced the Leading Boldly theme of our three-year strategic plan as well. Over the past two months, we have launched a reimagined, student-centered website, hosted a grand opening event for our Cosmetic Arts Building at Harris Campus and implemented a new enterprise operating model.

We also unveiled our new brand marketing campaign: "Future You Will Thank You." This message is encouraging to those considering Central Piedmont, setting the stage for what each person can accomplish with a degree, diploma or credential from the college. This campaign reminds me of just how fortunate I feel every day to be a part of this community. Thank you for your continued support and dedication to making a difference.

With gratitude,

Kandi W. Deitemeyer, Ed.D.



EMPOWER

students to be workforce leaders



COLLEGE INTRODUCES **NEW RADIOGRAPHY PROGRAM**

Central Piedmont has launched a new Associate in Applied Science degree in radiography to help meet growing demand for medical imaging professionals while strengthening Charlotte's healthcare workforce.

The program comes at a critical time for the healthcare industry. The North Carolina Department of Commerce projects nearly 102,000 new jobs in the healthcare and social assistance sector by 2032, with significant growth expected across ambulatory healthcare services. Through the expansion of local radiography education, Central Piedmont is helping prepare the skilled professionals needed to support patient care throughout the region.

Radiologic technologists play a vital role in healthcare, producing the diagnostic images physicians rely on to identify injuries, monitor disease and guide treatment decisions. Through classroom instruction, laboratory experiences and clinical training with community healthcare partners, students in the Radiography program will gain the knowledge and hands-on experience needed to become registered radiologic technologists and perform diagnostic imaging procedures.

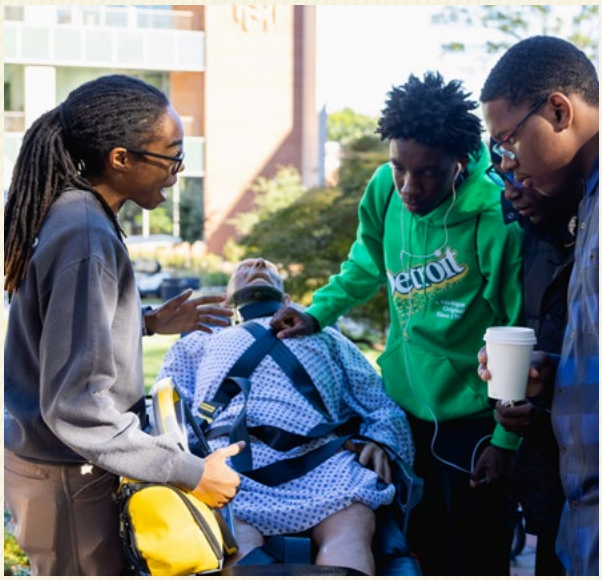
> *"The program is doing a great job preparing us to work directly with patients, and I'm excited about the opportunities it opens up for my future in healthcare."*
>
> — CARMEN HEBENSTREIT
> *Student*

The program also creates economic opportunity. In the Charlotte region, radiologic technologists earn starting salaries ranging from approximately $52,700 to $70,600, with opportunities to pursue advanced imaging specialties, including MRI, where salaries can exceed $90,000 annually.

Among the inaugural Radiography cohort is Carmen Hebenstreit, who transitioned from a more than 20-year career in financial services to pursue a healthcare profession focused on making a direct impact on patients' lives.

"I was looking for a career change to something that felt more meaningful and more impactful," Carmen said. "It's demanding, but in a really good way. I feel like the program is doing a great job preparing us to work directly with patients, and I'm excited about the opportunities it opens up for my future in healthcare."

In addition to the degree program, Central Piedmont offers continuing education courses in CT, MRI and mammography, supporting the advancement of both future and current imaging professionals.



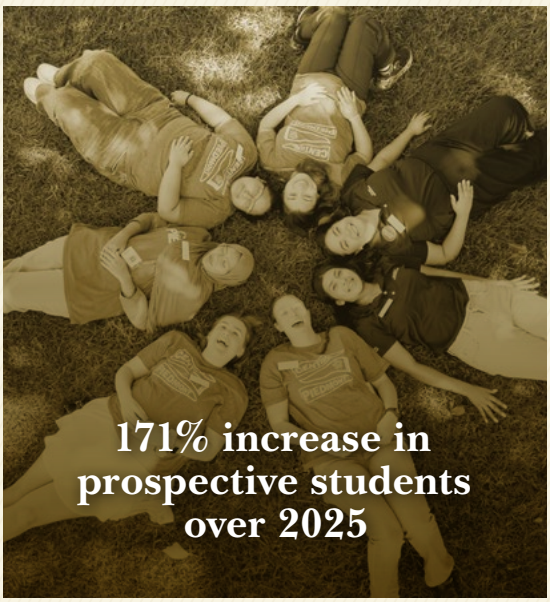




CENTRAL PIEDMONT OPEN HOUSE DRAWS NEARLY 1,500 GUESTS

On the morning of Saturday, Sept. 26, Central Piedmont opened its doors on Central Campus and invited the community to take part in the college's annual Open House.

This year's event featured tours offering a look at spaces around campus, the chance to meet faculty and staff while learning about numerous programs, and breakout sessions on enrollment, financial aid, dual enrollment and transfer opportunities. A DJ, samples from the Mobile Learning Kitchen, appearances by Spark and other local sports team mascots, and a photo booth were also part of the festivities.



The event welcomed nearly 1,500 prospective students, family members and community guests. Among the attendees were 758 prospective students, up 171% from 280 in 2025. This included 371 adult learners and 387 high school students. The strong turnout reflects Central Piedmont's impact on the community, with numerous individuals interested in how the college can assist them in reaching their personal and career goals.

CAREER EXPLORATION DAY ENCOURAGES CMS 8TH GRADERS TO ENVISION THEIR FUTURE

On Oct. 13, Central Piedmont partnered with Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools to host Career Exploration Day, welcoming 550 eighth-grade students for a day of discovery. Held across the college's six campuses, the event introduced students to a wide range of career pathways through engaging activities, interactions with faculty and industry professionals, and immersive experiences designed to connect classroom learning to careers.



Career Exploration Day demonstrates Central Piedmont's ongoing efforts to help students discover what's possible early in their educational journeys. By exposing students to careers aligned with their interests, talents and goals, the college lets them begin envisioning successful futures and gain a greater understanding of the education and training available to support those aspirations.

NATIONAL TRANSFER STUDENT WEEK HELPS STUDENTS EXPLORE PATHWAYS TO FURTHER EDUCATION

In October, Central Piedmont participated in National Transfer Student Week, giving students an opportunity to connect with university partners and advisors and learn more about pathways to a four-year degree. One highlight of the week was the College Transfer Fair on Central Campus, where representatives from more than 30 North Carolina colleges and universities provided information about transfer partnerships, admissions and the student experience.

Additionally, virtual sessions offered guidance on transferring to institutions with guaranteed admission and how to streamline the journey. Other events included one-on-one advising with transfer specialists, games, activities and a spirit day.

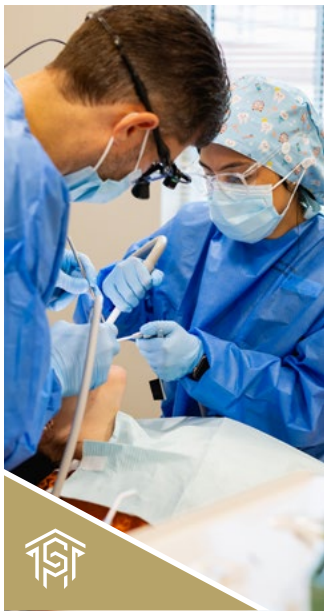


DENTAL STUDENTS
PROVIDE COMMUNITY CARE



On Saturday, Oct. 31, Central Piedmont's Dental Hygiene and Dental Assisting programs, along with Medical Assisting students, hosted a Mini-Missions of Mercy (Mini-MOM) Clinic, providing free dental care to eligible patients at the college's Dental Clinic on Central Campus.

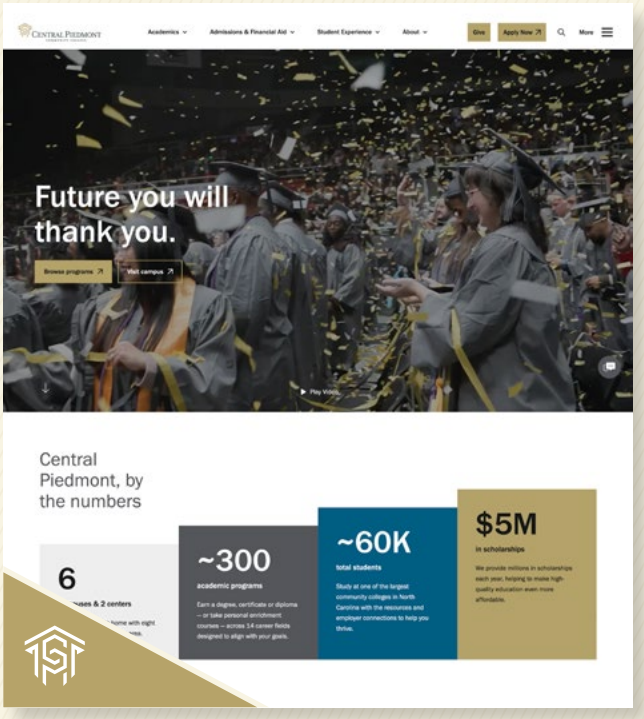
Seventy Central Piedmont students worked alongside volunteer dentists and community partners to provide care that included fillings and extractions. Dental Hygiene students supported patient care by taking dental radiographs, completing charting and documentation, serving as scribes and assisting with patient interactions, while Dental Assisting students worked directly with dentists during treatment.



By the end of the clinic, 68 patients had received more than $50,000 in dental services at no cost, an average of nearly $750 per patient.

Central Piedmont's dental programs have seen strong outcomes. Dental Hygiene students have achieved a 100% clinical licensure pass rate and a 96% National Board Exam success rate. In 2026, Dental Assisting students achieved 100% pass rates across all three reported components of the Certified Dental Assistant examination.

The benefits of the Mini-MOM Clinic were twofold. For patients, the clinic offered access to dental care that can make an immediate difference in their oral health. For Central Piedmont students, it transformed skills learned in classrooms and labs into experience caring for real patients alongside practicing dental professionals.



REDESIGNED WEBSITE
IS LIVE

Central Piedmont launched a redesigned cpcc.edu in September, creating a more intuitive, student-centered digital experience that makes it easier for prospective and current students to find information, explore academic programs and take the next step toward their educational goals.

The new website features:

- A new application guidance tool
- An integrated program finder
- A mobile-first design
- Streamlined navigation and improved accessibility

PARTNERSHIP WITH UNC CHARLOTTE
CREATES MORE SEAMLESS TRANSFER EXPERIENCE

Central Piedmont and UNC Charlotte have begun implementing the Strategic Transfer Excellence Plan (STEP), a collaborative initiative designed to strengthen transfer pathways and support student success.

The plan was developed through the Aspen Institute and American Association of State Colleges and Universities Transfer Intensive, as well as a yearlong collaborative planning process with both institutions.



KAT LAWRENCE/UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHARLOTTE

L to R: ***Dr. Heather Hill, Central Piedmont Provost; Dr. Kandi Deitemeyer, Central Piedmont President; Dr. Sharon Gaber, UNC Charlotte Chancellor; Dr. Jennifer Troyer, UNC Charlotte Provost***

Through enhanced advising, faculty collaboration, coordinated communications and stronger Associate in Applied Science transfer options, STEP will help students navigate the transfer process more easily and complete bachelor's degrees more efficiently. Prospective transfer students will be identified earlier, allowing for additional relationship-building and support. More than 2,950 current UNC Charlotte students have transferred from Central Piedmont.

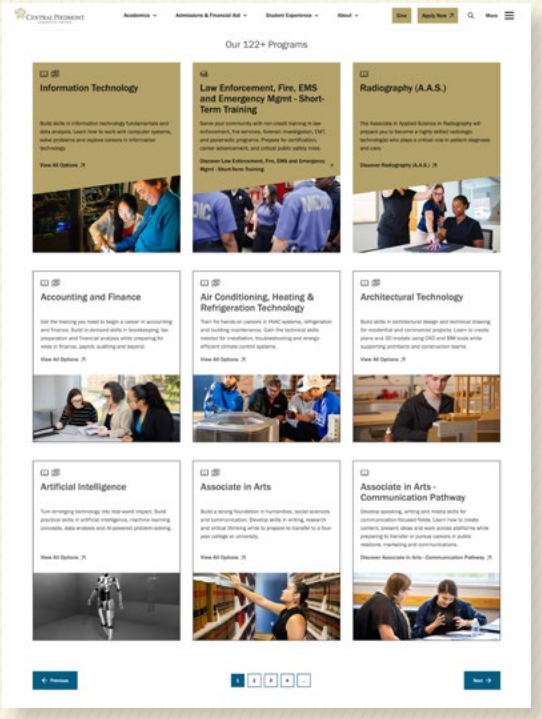
The partnership also creates a streamlined pathway from Central Piedmont's honors program into UNC Charlotte honors programs and establishes a 15-credit general education block that recognizes coursework completed as part of an A.A.S. degree.

By helping students better understand how their credits apply, what courses come next and how long degree completion will take, STEP will improve the student experience while strengthening the region's workforce.

The redesign positions the website as the college's primary digital front door, providing a clearer pathway for students to discover programs, understand enrollment requirements, learn how to pay for college and access support services.

In addition to serving students, the redesigned website enhances access to information for employers, donors, community partners and local residents. Dedicated navigation pathways make it easier to connect with workforce development programs, small business resources, facilities rentals, community events, galleries, clinics, camps and more.

The website redesign is part of Central Piedmont's ongoing efforts to improve the student experience and connect more prospective learners to educational and career opportunities throughout the region.



PEOPLE WITH

ARIA NEELY



After relocating from California to North Carolina, Aria Neely enrolled in Central Piedmont's Accelerated Associate Degree in Nursing program, attracted by the college's strong reputation for preparing students for their chosen careers.

"I heard a lot of really positive things about Central Piedmont in the community," Aria said. "People kept saying that Central Piedmont graduates always seem so prepared to transition into the workforce."

Aria began the accelerated program in May 2025 and completed it in June 2026 while balancing family responsibilities and participating in the federal Nurse Corps Scholarship Program.

Aria credits Central Piedmont faculty for helping students succeed in the demanding, accelerated option. "I felt they were invested in each individual student, supported us academically and helped us make professional connections," Aria said.

Today, Aria is fulfilling her service commitment in Novant Health Presbyterian Medical Center's neonatal intensive care unit. During her pinning ceremony at Central Piedmont, she was also recognized with the prestigious DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nursing Students for demonstrating exceptional compassion and excellence in patient care during her clinical experience.

DR. FRAZIER SMITH



Dr. Frazier Smith, Central Piedmont's department chair of cloud and networking technology, cybersecurity and technical support, combines a passion for technology with a dedication to student success. A Gaston County native, he built a career in IT training and instructional design before joining Central Piedmont as an adjunct faculty member in 2023.

"It's the teaching that I love; tech is just my subject matter," Dr. Smith said.

Dr. Smith and the Information Technology Division continuously explore ways to help students understand emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, and apply them effectively in the workplace. Dr. Smith has also developed an internship program within the department's student-run data center, providing hands-on experience. Every student who completed the internship has either secured employment in the industry or joined Central Piedmont as a lab assistant.

"I care about the science of education," he said. "I care about how to create those experiences for students where they're going to be able to walk away from the table having learned and be able to apply that to their job."

A PURPOSE

TIM JINKS



A dedication to lifelong learning helped Tim Jinks build a successful career, but he credits Central Piedmont with providing the foundation he needed to get started. After an unsuccessful first attempt at a four-year college and several years working in fast-food management, Tim returned to school in the mid-1990s determined to change his future.

“I was hungry to learn, hungry to make good grades,” he said.

Tim earned an Associate in Arts degree from Central Piedmont while balancing work obligations. He went on to earn a bachelor’s degree in accounting from UNC Charlotte in 1997, a second bachelor’s degree in finance in 2006, and an MBA from Wake Forest University in 2009. He also has multiple professional certifications. Today, he serves as a senior procurement manager at Microsoft, overseeing the construction of data centers.

He says the time-management skills and love of learning he developed at Central Piedmont have been instrumental throughout his career.

“I think it all started with Central Piedmont and just being successful there when I needed it the most,” he said.

WANDA WAITE



With 24 years of military service, Wanda Waite knows firsthand the challenges military members and their families face. While pursuing an associate degree in information technology at Central Piedmont, Wanda also works part time in Military Families and Veterans Services at the college, supporting veterans, active-duty service members and military-connected families.

“Someone who’s lived that life understands the things you deal with in the military that maybe a regular civilian wouldn’t,” Wanda said. “I think it helps to have that perspective to know you’re not on your own.”

Wanda serves as first sergeant of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 457th Chemical Battalion, in the U.S. Army Reserve. She began attending Central Piedmont in March 2024 and expects to graduate in December 2026. Her experience balancing military service and college has given her an additional appreciation for the support available to military-connected students through Military Families and Veterans Services.

“I think something like this is so needed,” she said.



ACTIVATE

partnerships to deliver
exceptional programs and services

CENTRAL PIEDMONT JOINS LOWE'S FOUNDATION **BUILDING FUTURES SKILLED TRADES COALITION**

The cross-sector Lowe's Foundation Building Futures Skilled Trades Coalition has brought together more than 80 organizations with a goal of preparing and developing one million skilled trades professionals by 2035. As a founding member of the coalition, Central Piedmont trains individuals to build and maintain the infrastructure of Mecklenburg County and beyond.

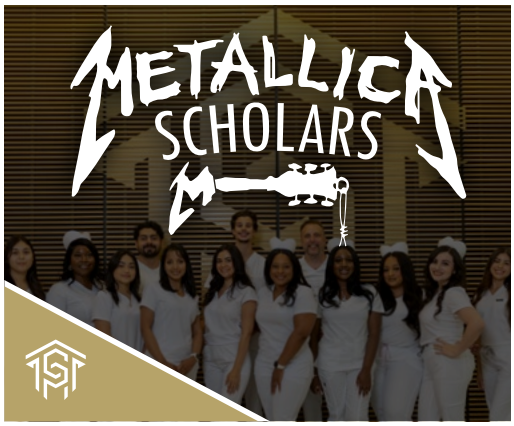
The college's involvement with the coalition builds on its relationship with the Lowe's Foundation, which includes a $1 million Gable Grant. Central Piedmont has used those funds to create the Levine Campus Learning Cottages housing construction, electrical, HVAC and refrigeration labs, develop mobile electrical and construction labs, and renovate and enhance other training and classroom spaces.



As part of the coordinated efforts of the Building Futures Skilled Trades Coalition, Central Piedmont is working with educators, employers and industry leaders to strengthen the skilled trades talent pipeline as experienced workers retire and infrastructure continues to grow.

METALLICA SCHOLARS INITIATIVE GRANT BENEFITS HEALTHCARE STUDENTS FOR EIGHTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR

A new $15,000 grant from the Metallica Scholars Initiative is set to help Central Piedmont healthcare students overcome financial barriers that can stand between graduation and employment. The award marks the eighth consecutive year the college has received support through the workforce development program created by Metallica's All Within My Hands Foundation.



Since joining the initiative in 2019, Central Piedmont has received a total of $215,000 in grant funding, helping nearly 400 students overcome obstacles to graduation and employment. By covering expenses that traditional financial aid often cannot address, including credentialing exams, course fees and required materials, the program assists students as they work to complete training, earn professional credentials and launch careers.

One student who benefited from the program is Sofia Limache Madrid, a Medical Laboratory Technology student who struggled to pay for a required board certification exam while balancing inconsistent work hours and other financial obligations. After learning about the Metallica Scholars Initiative through a faculty member, she applied for and received assistance, allowing her to focus on preparing for the exam.

"I could study calmly without the stress or fear that I wouldn't be able to take my exam until I had enough money to pay for the fee," Sofia said.

Launched in 2019 by All Within My Hands in partnership with the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC), the Metallica Scholars Initiative supports career and technical education pathways leading to high-demand, family-sustaining opportunities.

RESTAURANT SALES HELP CREATE **CHICK-FIL-A CHARLOTTE SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

Chick-fil-A restaurants in Charlotte teamed up to support Central Piedmont and local students from Monday, Sept. 28 through Saturday, Oct. 3. Participating Chick-fil-A restaurants donated a portion of sales from mobile orders to the college, helping create the Chick-fil-A Charlotte Scholarship Fund.

"At Central Piedmont, we know that talent is everywhere, but opportunity isn't always within reach," said Vanessa Stolen, associate vice president of institutional advancement at Central Piedmont. "Through Chick-fil-A Charlotte's investment in student success, more students will have access to the education



CHICK-FIL-A

and training they need to achieve their goals, advance their careers and strengthen our community. We are grateful for this partnership and for Chick-fil-A Charlotte's commitment to supporting our students."

Thanks to the weeklong initiative, Chick-fil-A Charlotte helped remove financial barriers and invested in the next generation of students across the Charlotte-Mecklenburg region.



JOLLY GOOD SAMARITAN ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORTS FUTURE PARAMEDICS AND EMTS

Established in honor of Mary Jolly, a 2019 Central Piedmont graduate, the Jolly Good Samaritan Endowed Scholarship will support students pursuing careers in emergency medical services while carrying forward her legacy of compassion and service.

A paramedic with Gaston County Emergency Medical Services (GEMS), Mary's desire to help others extended far beyond her professional responsibilities. In November 2025, she lost her life after stopping to assist a driver who had been involved in a crash on Interstate 95 while she was traveling home from a vacation. She was struck while rendering aid to the motorist, reflecting the selfless service that defined both her career and character.

Known for her compassion, professionalism and dedication to protecting others, she served on the department's swift water rescue team and received numerous recognitions throughout her career, including B-Shift Outstanding Paramedic in 2023 and B-Shift Excellence in Operational Readiness in 2025. In 2026, she was posthumously awarded the Gaston County Jaycees Distinguished Service Award, which will be renamed the Mary Jolly Distinguished Service Award.

The endowed scholarship will support students enrolled in Central Piedmont's eligible Emergency Medical Technician, Emergency Medical Science and Paramedic programs. The scholarship provides assistance for tuition, books and required fees, helping remove financial barriers for students preparing for careers in emergency medical services.

The scholarship reflects Central Piedmont's ongoing commitment to preparing the next generation of healthcare and public safety professionals while honoring an individual whose life exemplified service to others.

GIRLS IN AVIATION DAY INTRODUCES YOUTH TO AVIATION CAREER PATHWAYS



Each third Saturday in September, Girls in Aviation Day helps youth ages 8-18 learn about aviation and aerospace careers. This year, Central Piedmont participated alongside PSA Airlines in the international event hosted by Women in Aviation International. Throughout the morning, the Charlotte event at the Sullenberger Aviation Museum gave girls and young women the chance to explore the industry through interactive activities and real-world connections.

By taking part in events like Girls in Aviation Day, Central Piedmont continues to demonstrate its investment in identifying and developing talent for the fast-growing aviation sector. Current offerings include Private Pilot Ground School, drone instruction and certificates in airport management and logistics, with plans for future expansion as the need for aviation professionals continues to grow.

USGA GREENKEEPER APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM EXPANDS WITH CENTRAL PIEDMONT PARTNERSHIP



L to R: *Ed Injaychock, Director, Work-based Learning; John Royals, GAP Instructor; George Waters, Assistant Director, USGA Green Section Education; Dr. Kandi Deitemeyer, President; Dr. Heather Hill, Provost; Marcia Colson, Associate Vice President, Workforce and Business Development; Jacequeline Mitchell, Dean, Business and Public Services Technologies*

A new partnership with the United States Golf Association (USGA) is designed to prepare the next generation of skilled golf course maintenance professionals at Central Piedmont.

The USGA's Greenkeeper Apprenticeship Program (GAP) will combine classroom instruction with paid, hands-on training at leading golf facilities throughout the Charlotte region. The year-long, no-cost program creates an accessible pathway into the golf industry while helping employers develop the labor and talent they need.

Courses are taught by industry professionals, including former golf course superintendents, who pair essential subject-matter expertise with practical lessons apprentices can apply directly in daily course maintenance work. Apprentices are placed at a nearby golf course for a paid position on the golf course maintenance team, allowing them to earn fair wages while furthering their education and experience.

The partnership kicked off with an event at Quail Hollow Club on Oct. 20, with classes set to begin in 2027.



CULTIVATE

a culture where people excel
and engage in meaningful work

PRESIDENT DEITEMEYER NAMED A 2026 CHARLOTTE BUSINESS JOURNAL POWER 100 VISIONARY

Central Piedmont president Dr. Kandi Deitemeyer was named to the Charlotte Business Journal's 2026 Power 100: Visionaries in September, recognizing her as one of the region's most influential leaders.



Since becoming president in 2017, Dr. Deitemeyer has advanced a vision that connects education, economic development, workforce strategy and community advancement to help meet the evolving needs of Mecklenburg County and the greater Charlotte region.

During Dr. Deitemeyer's decade of leadership, dual enrollment has grown significantly to nearly 6,500 students, transfer partnerships have expanded to 40 four-year institutions and annual scholarship support has increased to $5 million. Today, Central Piedmont serves nearly 60,000 students, generates an estimated $1 billion economic impact annually and has awarded more than 44,000 credentials during her tenure.

Her leadership has also positioned Central Piedmont as a critical partner in addressing workforce shortages across healthcare, advanced manufacturing, skilled trades, early childhood education, technology and other high-demand industries. Through partnerships with employers, healthcare systems, local governments and school districts, the college has developed innovative workforce solutions that help residents connect to meaningful careers while supporting regional economic growth.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY BRINGS COLLEGE COMMUNITY TOGETHER FOR LEARNING EXPERIENCES

On Sept. 8, Fall Professional Development Day provided Central Piedmont employees with an opportunity to grow in their professional roles, build skills and connect with colleagues.

In the morning, future-of-work expert Luke Goetting hosted "From Gen X to Gen AI: Bridging Central Piedmont Community College Across Time, Tech & TikTok." The interactive keynote covered topics including how employees from various generational backgrounds can work together and learn from one another, while also exploring how artificial intelligence is reshaping how colleges operate.


LUKE GOETTING

During the day, employees participated in workshops focused on individual development, departmental projects, and the availability of tools and resources to enhance their work.

Professional development continues throughout the year. The Organizational Learning and Leadership Development (OL/LD) team holds a variety of workshops, individual and team learning opportunities, and leadership courses and programs. These events help Central Piedmont employees grow in their roles at the college to better serve students, colleagues and the community.











EMPLOYEE BENEFITS FAIR FOCUSES ON EMPLOYEE WELL-BEING

Central Piedmont hosted its annual Employee Benefits Fair on Sept. 30, providing employees with valuable opportunities to connect with benefits partners, explore available programs and services, and learn more about resources that support their health, finances and professional success.

The event featured educational sessions covering supplemental retirement planning, the Employee Assistance Program and the college's Employee Value Proposition. The fair also provided flu vaccinations, along with on-campus mobile mammography screenings through Novant Health.

With benefits providers, wellness resources and educational programs in one location, the Employee Benefits Fair helped employees make informed decisions about their health and benefits while reinforcing Central Piedmont's commitment to employee well-being.

Fair highlights included:

- *Connection with benefits partners*
- *Educational sessions*
- *Flu vaccinations*
- *Mobile mammography screenings*

Additionally, Central Piedmont is set to begin funding the employee portion of Superior Vision insurance, making employee-only coverage available at no cost and reducing the cost of employee-plus-dependent coverage.



EXEMPLIFY

future-focused, mission-anchored stewardship

“FUTURE YOU WILL THANK YOU” BRAND CAMPAIGN KICKS OFF



On Oct. 5, Central Piedmont launched “Future You Will Thank You,” a new brand campaign designed to introduce more people to the college and the opportunities it helps create for students, employers and the community. The campaign will be featured across digital advertising, social media, campus signage, print materials and community outreach.

“Future You Will Thank You” is built around a simple idea: The choices people make today can help create meaningful opportunities tomorrow. Whether someone’s goal is earning a credential or college credit, building new skills, changing careers, continuing their education or saving money on the path to a degree, taking the first step can help turn that dream into reality.

The long-term campaign is designed to provide continuity across the college’s marketing and communications efforts.



L to R: ***Jessica Boyce, Executive Vice President, Finance and Operations; Marcia Colson, Associate Vice President, Workforce and Business Development; Dr. Heather Hill, Provost; Dr. Kandi Deitemeyer, President; Pat Rodgers, Board of Trustees; Catherine Marrow, Associate Dean, Hospitality and Public Services; Madelyn Caple, Foundation Board, Vice Chair; Landon Wyatt, Foundation Board, Chair***

COSMETIC ARTS BUILDING HOLDS GRAND OPENING

Central Piedmont opened its newly renovated Cosmetic Arts Building at Harris Campus, creating Mecklenburg County’s premier destination for hands-on education in cosmetology, barbering, massage therapy and other beauty and wellness professions. Both curriculum and short-term training options are available.

The transformed facility provides students with modern, industry-standard learning environments while expanding access to affordable beauty and wellness services for community members. Designed to mirror professional salons, barber shops, spas and wellness settings,

NEW TECHNOLOGY HELPS DEEPEN **ENGAGEMENT WITH CENTRAL PIEDMONT SUPPORTERS**

Meaningful relationships help fuel student success. As Central Piedmont advances its strategic priorities and builds support for opportunity, workforce development and community impact, the Institutional Advancement team is using new technology to strengthen connections with alumni, donors and friends of the college.

The team has introduced Claire Elizabeth, an AI-powered virtual engagement officer delivered in partnership with Givzey. With oversight from Advancement Operations, Claire Elizabeth will use personalized digital outreach to share college stories and help connect interested supporters with Institutional Advancement staff.

Transparency and human oversight are central to her work. Claire Elizabeth will always be identified as an AI engagement officer. She will not solicit gifts, negotiate or make commitments for the college, and a staff member will remain available when personal assistance is needed.

This addition gives Institutional Advancement greater capacity to engage supporters, strengthen operations and build philanthropic partnerships that create opportunity for Central Piedmont students.



the building allows students to gain real-world experience by serving clients under instructor supervision.

professionals remains strong across salons, spas, healthcare settings and independent businesses. The new facility strengthens

"Students are turning their passion into professions, and our community is gaining access to services that improve quality of life."

— DR. HEATHER HILL
Provost

"This facility represents how Central Piedmont prepares students for successful careers while meeting the workforce needs of our growing region," said Dr. Heather Hill, Central Piedmont's provost. "Students will learn in a professional environment that reflects today's industry standards, gain valuable hands-on experience and graduate ready to succeed."

As Mecklenburg County continues to grow, the need for licensed beauty and wellness

Central Piedmont's ability to develop skilled professionals while providing residents access to high-quality services at affordable prices.

"The new building, and our expanded program offerings, create opportunity for our students," Dr. Hill said. "They are turning their passion into professions, and our community is gaining access to services that improve quality of life. It's a powerful example of how education and community impact go hand in hand."

FINANCIAL SERVICES PARTNER PROGRAM UNVEILED

The launch of the Financial Services Partner Program enhances support and collaboration across the college by helping employees navigate purchasing and financial processes from start to finish. Through the program, one accountable partner takes ownership of the request, coordinates procurement, financial services and compliance reviews, and moves it through the process to completion.

Financial Services Partners can help with three common purchasing and expense needs: Emburse expense reports, Amazon Business purchases and NC eProcurement requisitions. Travel services are coming soon as well.

With the Financial Services Partner Program in place, Central Piedmont employees will gain back more time to focus on other priorities and objectives.



OPERATIONS DIVISION LAUNCHES **NEW ENTERPRISE OPERATING MODEL**

The Operations Division is beginning a phased organizational transition to establish a new enterprise operating model that will enhance how operational services are delivered across Central Piedmont. The initiative is designed to improve collaboration, increase transparency, strengthen accountability and create a better experience for students, faculty and staff.

The transition is guided by four principles:

- **One Enterprise:** Aligning operational teams around shared goals, priorities and coordinated service delivery.
- **Shared Services:** Creating a more connected service model that simplifies access to operational support and the right resources through a “one front door” approach.
- **Operational Excellence:** Implementing an Enterprise Service Management framework that standardizes how services are requested, prioritized, delivered, measured and continuously improved, increasing consistency, transparency and data-informed decision-making.
- **Unreasonable Hospitality:** Ensuring every interaction reflects professionalism, responsiveness, collaboration and a genuine commitment to helping students, faculty, staff and visitors succeed.

The transition is being implemented in carefully planned phases to maintain continuity while new capabilities are introduced. As Operations evolves, the division remains committed to delivering reliable, transparent and responsive services that support Central Piedmont’s mission and strategic priorities.



FOUNDATION BOARD PROFILE: BEN PICKETT



As executive vice president of business services at Charlotte-based Nucor Corporation, the largest steel producer and recycler in North America and one of the world's cleanest steelmakers, Ben Pickett had long admired Central Piedmont from afar. Now he is on the college's Foundation Board.

"Central Piedmont is an incredible gem that we have in Charlotte, especially for our trades," he said. "Many of the skills being taught at the college mirror the ones being used every day by our 33,000-plus Nucor teammates — they build confidence, discipline, independence and pride in hard work."

Ben began serving on the college's Foundation Board in the summer of 2025 after meeting customers who were also board members and developing a friendship with President Kandi Deitemeyer through various philanthropic efforts.

"If you're going to be spending your time, which is the most precious asset we have, I want to spend it working with people who are truly committed to serving our community and want to make demonstrable, real-world impacts," he said.

"Central Piedmont truly meets the community where it is."

— BEN PICKETT
Foundation Board member

Ben is originally from Lexington, North Carolina, and attended UNC-Chapel Hill both as an undergrad and for law school. He first moved to Charlotte in 2007 and was an attorney at Moore & Van Allen for 12 years before joining Nucor. In his current role, Ben oversees Nucor's legal and government affairs functions, as well as the company's environmental and sustainability, communications, marketing and energy teams.

While Ben champions all of Central Piedmont's programs, he is particularly enthusiastic about the college's training opportunities in fields like welding, machining and automation.

In his first year and a half as a board member, he has experienced the college firsthand through hands-on engagement with many programs.

"As part of the board introduction process, you have an immersive experience at all the campuses," Ben said. "The experience truly opened my eyes to just how incredible the resources are at Central Piedmont.

"It was absolutely fantastic to be a part of that and see what our students get to do on a daily basis and the skills they can gain."

In addition to his work with the Foundation, Ben also serves on the community relations board for the Charlotte Executive Leadership Council and on several national boards that further his and Nucor's commitment to American manufacturing.

Outside of his professional role and leadership in the community, Ben is an individual of strong faith who married his high school sweetheart, with whom he is raising their three children.

He sees Central Piedmont as essential to the region he and his family call home.

"It truly meets the community where it is," he said. "It serves the community where it has its needs, and funds those needs in a way that allows access for all."

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